



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

FY 24-25 Supplemental Budget and Policy Bill Overview

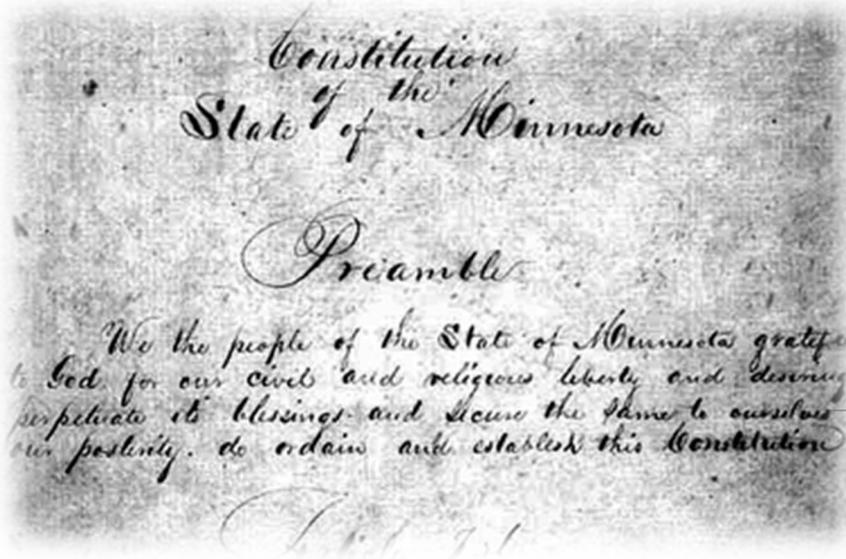
JEFF SHORBA, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Minnesota Constitution

Article 1, Section 8

"Every person is entitled to...
obtain justice **freely** and
without purchase, completely
and without denial, **promptly**
and **without delay**,
conformable to the laws."

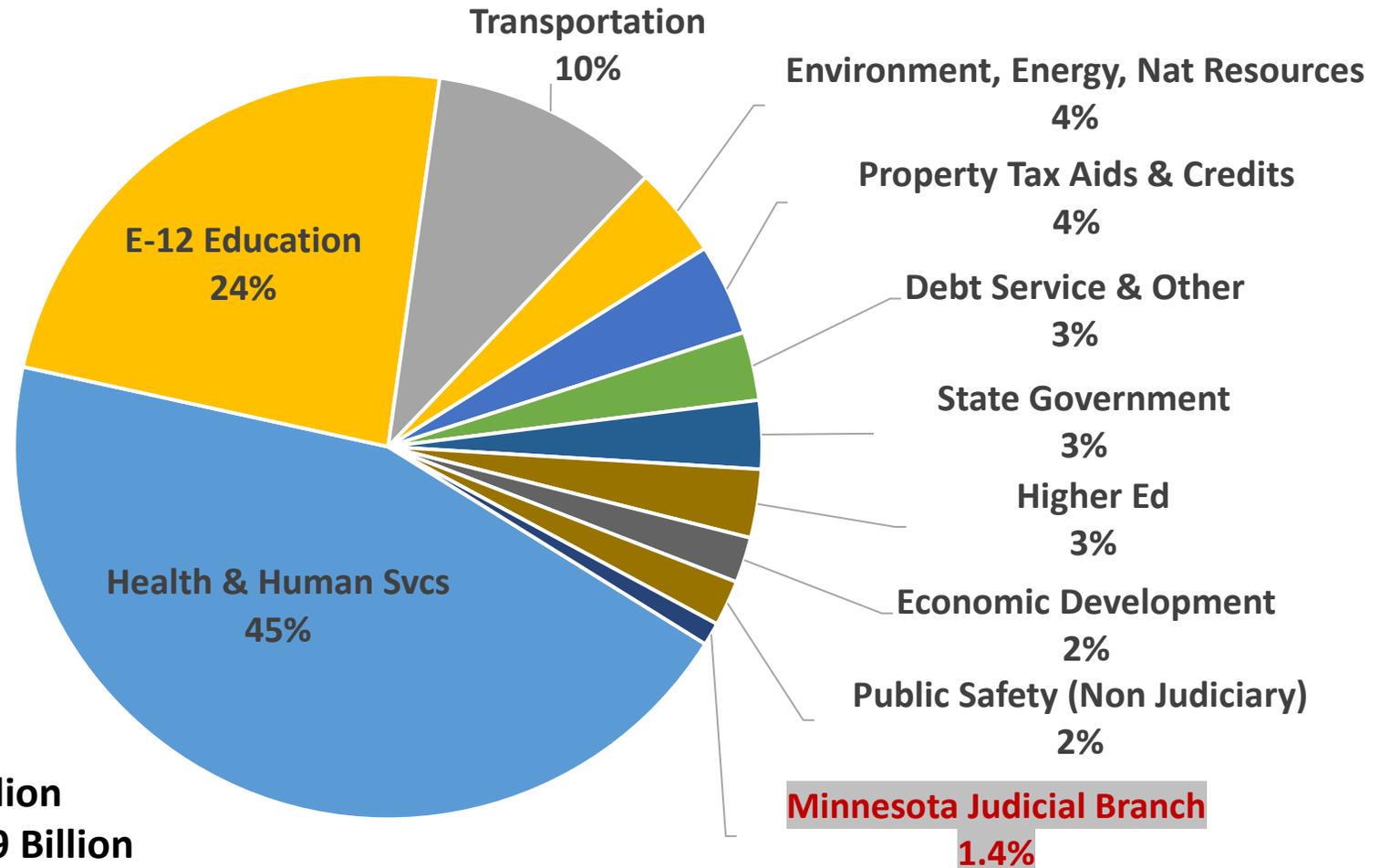


Mandated Services

Minnesota Statute §480.182 requires state courts to pay for the following court-related costs:

- Court Interpreters
- Guardian ad Litem program and personnel costs
- Examination costs for mental commitments and related proceedings under chapter 253B
- Examination costs under Chapter 611 or Rule 20 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure
- In forma pauperis costs
- Costs for transcripts mandated by statute
- Jury Program costs
- Witness fees and mileage fees specified in certain statutes

FY24-25 State Budget



FY24-25 All Funds: \$115.60 Billion

FY24-25 General Funds: \$65.19 Billion

FY24-25 MJB General Fund Budget: \$882.803 Million

FY 2024-25 Appropriations

Appropriations from the Judiciary Bill	Amount
Judicial Branch workforce	\$67,883,000
Treatment courts	\$844,000
Courtroom technology enhancements (one-time)	\$7,400,000
Pandemic case backlog (one-time)	\$4,200,000
Mandated psychological services deficit (one-time)	\$3,000,000
Interpreter pay increase	\$400,000
Law clerk pay increase	\$4,066,000
Competency exam delay	(3,542,000)
Appropriations from Other Bills	
Treatment courts-Cannabis bill	\$3,000,000
Cannabis expungement (one-time)	\$1,090,000
Extreme risk protection orders implementation	\$273,000
Paid family and medical leave interest change (one-time)	\$30,000
Total	\$100,191,000

**Of the additional appropriations to the Minnesota Judicial Branch, \$15,720,000 is one-time funding.*

FY 2024-2025 Expenditures

Sustaining the Judicial Branch Workforce

Recent legislative investments helped make compensation structure more competitive with public sector peers.

Treatment Courts

Funding allowed the Branch to sustain four recently established treatment courts.

Courtroom Technology Enhancements

One-time funding helped enhance courtroom technology to support hybrid and remote hearings.

Mandated Psychological Services Deficit

One-time funding helped temporarily meet increased costs with psychological services.

Interpreter Pay Increase

Funding allowed an increase in interpreter pay rates.

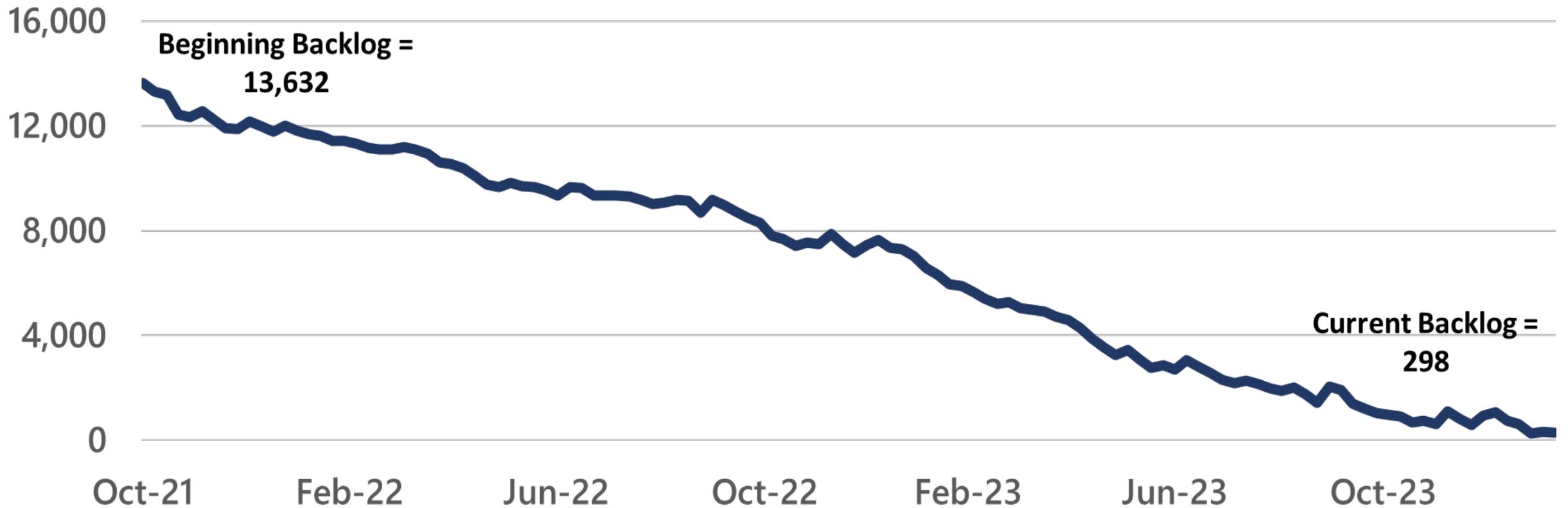
Law Clerk Pay Increase

Funding allowed law clerks to obtain a pay increase.

Addressing the Pandemic Case Backlog

One-time funding to help decrease the pandemic case backlog.

Major Criminal Case Backlog Update



**FY24-25
Supplemental
Budget Request:**

**Addressing Key
Challenges**

Ensuring access to forensic examiners

Increasing demand for court interpreters

Jury participation & representativeness

Enhancing cyber security

Improving courthouse security



Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners

Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners

- The Judicial Branch is facing a shortage of qualified examiners to provide psychological and psychiatric examinations for civil commitment and criminal cases.
- **Key Challenges:**
 - The volume of exams has increased: 143% increase from FY20-23 (civil and criminal case types)
 - Cost is going up 11% per year
 - Availability of examiners has decreased
 - Examiner pay has remained the same: \$125/hour since 2009 (DHS currently offers \$225/hour)

The Minnesota Judicial Branch requests funding to:

- Increase examiner pay rates from \$125/hour to \$225/hour (\$9.23 million per year)
- Support the expanded need for examiners (\$5.32 million per year)

Forensic Examiners		
FY24	FY25	FY24-25
\$14.575 m.	\$14.575 m.	\$29.15 m.



Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters

Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters

- The Judicial Branch is statutorily required to provide interpreter services
- **Key Challenge:** The need for interpreters has nearly doubled in the last two years due to changing demographics causing a current budget deficit
- The Judicial Branch must increase rates to stay competitive

Court Interpreters		
FY24	FY25	FY24-25
\$1.525 m.	\$1.525 m.	\$3.05 m.

The Judicial Branch seeks funding to:

- Support the expanded need for interpreters (\$1.290 million/year)
- Increase pay to \$75/hour(\$235,000/year)



Improving the Juror Experience

Improving the Juror Experience

- **Key Challenge:** Jurors have expressed concerns due to the financial hardships associated with jury service, as well as post-trial anxiety, guilt, and vicarious trauma.
- To address these concerns, the Judicial Branch is seeking additional funding to:
 - Raise juror per diem from \$20/day to \$100/day
 - Increase mileage from \$0.54/mile to the federal rate of \$0.655/mile
 - Provide access to vicarious trauma services

Jury		
FY24	FY25	FY24-25
\$10.024 m.	\$10.024 m.	\$20.048 m.

Enhancing Cyber Security

Enhancing Cyber Security

Cyber Security		
FY24	FY25	FY24-25
\$1.75 m.	\$1.75 m.	\$3.5 m.

The Judicial Branch seeks funding to:

- Subscribe to 24/7/365 cyber security monitoring services
- Purchase enhanced cyber security monitoring tools
- Update software to more securely manage access to court data

- In the past three years, the frequency and sophistication of cybercrime has dramatically increased.
- Courts maintain an array of confidential and sensitive data, and this funding will help the Judicial Branch better protect that data from cyberthreats.
- Several other courts have recently experienced significant cyberattacks.



Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative

Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative

- \$500,000 one-time for a competitive grant program for courthouse safety and security improvements.
- Allows counties to apply for a one-time, dollar-for-dollar, matching grant to fund safety and security needs.
- Modeled after the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative funded in 2016 and 2021, which has provided a total of \$1.5 million in grants to 57 counties since 2017.

Safe and Secure Courthouse		
FY24	FY25	FY24-25
—	\$500,000	\$500,000

Overall Supplemental Funding Request

Request	FY24	FY25	FY24-25
Expanded Access to Forensic Examiners	\$14.575 m.	\$14.575 m.	\$29.15 m.
Ensuring Access to Court Interpreters	\$1.525 m.	\$1.525 m.	\$3.05 m.
Improving the Juror Experience	\$10.024 m.	\$10.024 m.	\$20.048 m.
Cyber Security	\$1.75 m.	\$1.75 m.	\$3.50 m.
Safe and Secure Courthouse	—	\$0.5 m.	\$0.5 m.
Total FY24-25 Supplemental Budget Request	\$27.874 m.	\$28.374 m.	\$56.248 m.

Policy Provisions

Minimum Amount for Interest Bearing Trust Accounts: Establishes a minimum amount of \$10,000 for interest bearing trust accounts for condemnation proceeds to warrant the time and effort involved in establishing the trust account.

DVS Notification: Allows court administration to share necessary documents related to driver's license suspension due to unsatisfied civil judgments with DVS via system-to-system integrations rather than through certified mail or electronic certification through email. A similar process has been used for many years to notify DVS of requests to suspend driver's licenses in criminal cases.

Remote Forensic Examiners: Changes the definition of court examiner to allow out-of-state examiners to perform remote exams in Minnesota if they are part of an approved interstate compact.

Publication of Court Notices: Requiring notices to be published in a newspaper is expensive, ineffective, and creates due process issues. This proposal would allow court-generated notices to be served by publication by posting to the Minnesota Judicial Branch webpage.

Policy Provisions (continued)

Revenue Recapture Act Notice: Removing the Judicial Branch notice requirement under the Revenue Recapture Act, which does not apply to the Branch and confuses court customers.

Service for OFPs and HROs: Updating the service requirements for orders for protection and harassment restraining orders to permit services electronically or by first class mail if the respondent appears remotely and is notified by the judge that an OFP or HRO will be issued.

Juror Differentiated Shifts: This proposal would prohibit employers from requiring an employee to work night shifts, perform other full-time work, or alter work schedules when that employee is participating in jury service.

Thank you!



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